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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 14, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

### **MESA MAN SENTENCED TO 217 MONTHS IN PRISON**

TUCSON, Ariz. – The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 14, 2005, Shane Bobby Chiago, age 22, of Mesa, Arizona, was sentenced to 217 months imprisonment, by United States District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson, in Tucson, Arizona.

On March 20, 2004, on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, Border Patrol Agents conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle suspected of smuggling illegal aliens. Upon approaching the driver's side of the vehicle, a Border Patrol agent noticed several individuals in the backseat attempting to conceal themselves. After instructing the driver to turn off the vehicle, the agent noticed Chiago, who was seated in the front passenger's seat, make a rapid movement with his left hand. In response, the agent moved toward the front of the vehicle and saw that Chiago had reached for a handgun. Chiago fired the gun at the agent through the open front driver's window and the agent fell to the ground as a result of a gunshot wound to his right ear. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed and the agents returned fire and then gave pursuit. During the pursuit, Chiago again shot at the agents and the defendants' vehicle forced three cars off the road before crashing into a truck in Casa Grande, Arizona. Chiago, the driver, and the passengers fled on foot but were soon apprehended. The apprehended passengers were determined to be citizens of Mexico who did not possess proper documentation to enter or remain the United States. At the conclusion of the pursuit and apprehension, investigators discovered three individuals in the trunk of the defendants' vehicle,

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one of whom was deceased. Further investigation revealed that the deceased individual was a 17 year old juvenile from Mexico who had been killed by a gunshot wound when the agents returned fire.

The defendant was arrested and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for assaulting a federal officer, discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and conspiring to transporting illegal aliens resulting in the death of another person.

On September 7, 2004, Shane Bobby Chiago pled guilty to three counts of the indictment: assault on a federal officer, discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and conspiracy to transport illegal aliens resulting in the death of another person.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Border Patrol, and the Tohono O'odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Eric J. Markovich, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-00850-TUC-CKJ  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-023

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